

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"

Message: "The Law of Perseverance"

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God desires that we treat others as we want to be treated. We want to use the gifts and abilities God has given to us to glorify Him and spread His name and fame among the nations. But how does it work? What's the key?

The Law of Perseverance makes the Law of Reciprocity and the Law of Use work in our lives. God yields the good things of the kingdom,
first of all to those who struggle,
secondly to those who keep on asking, seeking and knocking,
third to those who through faith and patience inherit the promises,
Fourth, to those who press on and press through.

God rewards diligence, faithfulness, and persistence, as we will come to see.

First of all, let's consider God yielding the good things of the kingdom to those who struggle. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. The one who is determined to achieve God-given goals despite obstacles and tribulation, wins. This struggling and wrestling demonstrates a persistent, steadfast faith. That faith is a gift, and we can ask the Living God for that kind of faith.

Our example is Jacob. We find that in Genesis 32. Jacob was alone and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when he saw that he did not prevail against him (Jacob), he touched the socket of his hip and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as he wrestled with him. This is pain, folks. And he said, "Let me go for the day breaks." But he said (meaning Jacob said), "I will not let you go unless you bless me." This is persistence even in the pain. So he said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." He said "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel. For you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked saying, "Tell me your name I pray" and he said "Why is it that you ask about my name?" And he blessed him there.

What do we learn from this? Jacob wrestled and won the blessing. It cost him but the blessing had supreme value and was worth the price he paid. You see, Jacob was willing to contend with God at a time of desperate need in his life. He knew that God had willed to bless him and he would settle for nothing less than the full inheritance. He had tenacity and it caused him to prevail. He persevered for what his inheritance was to be.

And this is what we need to do as well. We must accept nothing less than our full inheritance in Jesus Christ; what is ours in Jesus Christ. All that Jesus Christ has accomplished for us, we are to seek after and seek the Holy Spirit who applies to us what Jesus has accomplished.

Secondly, God yields the good things of the kingdom to those who keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. This we find in Matthew 7:7-8. Jesus is teaching us persistent prayer here.

Jesus says, “Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. And he who seeks, finds. And to him who knocks, it will be opened.” So we have a promise in this but it is conditioned upon our asking, our seeking, and our knocking. It is a continuous present tense, so it’s ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking. This is persistent prayer that we might receive from God. So we petition, we knock until the door is opened. We persevere until we overcome.

We need to get in that Bible and use it as a resource and seek out those promises of God and hang on to them and keep seeking God that He’s going to hold to His word and give us the manifestation of all that He has promised to us, namely and especially the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, God is going to yield the good things of the kingdom to those who through faith and patience inherit the promise.

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love that you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end so that you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Hebrews 6:10-12.

Through faith and patience we inherit the promises. Faith looks to the one who promises because faith has an object. There is The Faith and then faith has an object. Faith looks to the one who promises. The One who promises is God and He is faithful and He also will bring it to pass.

Hope looks to the promise. Again, we find that call to diligence, faithfulness, and persistence, in the Law of Perseverance. Abraham is the example. After Abraham had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

And then we see also that God yields the good things of the kingdom to those who press on and press through. For this we go to Acts 14:21-22. Here we read, “**And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying we must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.**”

This is like pressure on the spirit. We’re going to have pressure on our soul and spirit. We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God. So we’re talking about pressure on the soul and spirit. If you’ve ever experienced this, you know exactly what this is talking about.

Victory comes through battle. Triumph follows trials. We are here to learn, to practice these principles. We are here to learn how to overcome. Faith is what overcomes. We are, like Paul, to press toward the goal [the mark] for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We are to press on and press through. We are to reach forward to those things which are ahead. Just before God is going to promote you, you find yourself being attacked by the devil. You’re tempted and there’s pressure on your spirit. You come up against obstacles, oppression, and opposition.

We all may be having this right now to some degree or other. We may be experiencing obstacles, oppression, and opposition. And we feel ourselves being under the attack of the devil. All kinds

of things may be happening. We may be fighting. We might be too weak or too oppressed to fight the battles, even to pray with a right attitude.

Some of these...I just call this being on the hit list, and some are like little harassments, little harassing nuisance things coming from the opposition. But I have learned from walking with the Lord that I should rejoice in this and I should rejoice in my God, the Lord, because this is part of the pattern before promotion. Attacks come, and pressure, and we persevere because the Holy Spirit preserves us. Then things start opening up.

Mary Craig Ministries is in its 29th year. We've lived through this many times. The Living God blesses this ministry and yet at the same time we can be having oppositional attacks, this pressure, these obstacles, and oppressions coming against us.

What do we know from the word of God? We know that we are to persist in faith believing. And we will see our faith rewarded. This is why I have learned over the years to go right to the word of God and pray the word back to God and just hang on like some dog at the feet. Like that ad used to be. I don't know if you remember the ad, but I think it was for cottage cheese and the little dog just came up and he just hung on to the leg of this man. That's the way we have to do. We have to just hang on until we pray it through and press through. And then we shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Remember our Law of Triumph and Victory and that was to take up your position, stand firm, and you shall see the salvation of your God. Well where does this strength to persevere come from? It comes from the Holy Spirit preserving. Guard the relationship with the Lord, with the Father, with Christ, with the Holy Spirit. The scripture tells us in Romans 15 that whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

Do not grow weary in well doing, for in due season you will reap if you do not lose heart. God yields the good things of the kingdom to those who fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith. May we persevere to victory. Amen.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. **8***We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; **9**Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; **10**Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. **11**For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. **12**So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. KJV

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